

THE WHITE HOUSE

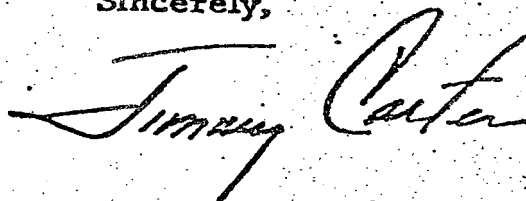
WASHINGTON

May 3, 1977

To Chairman George McGovern

In response to your letter of April 19, I wish to assure you of Executive Branch cooperation with the investigation of your Subcommittee on International Operations concerning the Foreign Agents Registration Act and related matters. I share your concern that there be appropriate laws and regulations to govern foreign activities in this country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jimmy Carter". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

The Honorable George S. McGovern
Chairman, Subcommittee
on International Operations
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 19, 1977

Dear Mr. President:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you concerning an investigation now being initiated by the Subcommittee on International Operations, and to request that you direct the appropriate Executive Branch agencies to cooperate fully with the Subcommittee's efforts.

The focus of the Subcommittee's study is the Foreign Agents Registration Act, which is the basic U. S. law governing foreign-sponsored activity in this country aimed at influencing U. S. Government policy. To carry out its provisions, the Justice Department's Criminal Division runs a Foreign Agents Registration Unit. Last year, a preliminary investigation by the Foreign Relations Committee indicated serious deficiencies in the current law and its implementation. At the same time, new evidence has developed that a particular kind of foreign-sponsored activity not covered by the law also requires careful scrutiny: operations in this country by foreign intelligence agencies directed at the surveillance, harrassment, and intimidation of private persons, usually foreign nationals. With this purview, it is the Subcommittee's intention to conduct a purposeful investigation directed toward the enactment of new legislation -- a revised version of the Foreign Agents Registration Act -- which would establish appropriate laws and regulations to govern all such foreign-sponsored activity.

Recognizing the sensitivity surrounding the operations of foreign intelligence agencies in this country, I can, as chairman of the Subcommittee, assure you that this investigation will be conducted with extreme circumspection, that all necessary precautions will be taken to safeguard intelligence sources and methods, and that the Subcommittee will make every effort to avoid anything resembling an executive-legislative confrontation. Our purpose is to enact sound legislation which protects the integrity of the U. S. Government decision-making process and which safeguards the privacy and individual liberty of all who reside in the United States U. S. citizen and foreign national alike.

The President
The White House

Pursuant to this letter, I shall notify the heads of the appropriate agencies -- including the CIA, the NSA, and the Justice and State Departments -- concerning the Subcommittee's investigation and shall ask that they cooperate fully. In the meantime, I respectfully request that you direct that such cooperation be forthcoming.

Sincerely yours,

George McGovern
Chairman, Subcommittee on
International Operations